

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CL**AIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing an $\text{Li}_{1+\alpha}\text{V}_3\text{O}_8$ compound, ~~characterized in that it consists in~~ comprising preparing a precursor gel by reacting hydrogen peroxide with $\alpha\text{-V}_2\text{O}_5$ in aqueous medium, in the presence of a lithium precursor, and ~~then in~~ subjecting said gel to a heat treatment in an oxidizing atmosphere at a temperature of between 260°C and 580°C .
2. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the lithium precursor is ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of $\text{LiOH}\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$, LiCl , LiNO_3 ~~or~~ and a lithium salt of a carboxylic acid.
3. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the lithium carboxylic acid salt is ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of lithium acetylacetonate, lithium acetate, lithium stearate, lithium formate and lithium oxalate.
4. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the lithium precursor is introduced in powder form into the reaction medium.
5. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the lithium precursor is introduced into the aqueous solution at the same time as the $\alpha\text{-V}_2\text{O}_5$.
6. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the lithium precursor is introduced into the reaction medium after the addition of $\alpha\text{-V}_2\text{O}_5$, before the end of gelling.

7. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the duration of the heat treatment is between 10 minutes and 10 hours.

8. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the respective Li precursor and α -V₂O₅ quantities in the reaction medium are preferably such that:

- 0.16 mol/l < [Li] < 0.55 mol/l;
- 0.22 mol/l < [V₂O₅] < 0.75 mol/l; and
- 1.15 < [V₂O₅]/[Li] < 1.5.

9. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the hydrogen peroxide concentration in the reaction medium is between 10% and 50% by volume.

10. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula Li_{1+ α} V₃O₈ [(α)] where 0.1 < α < 0.25[(α)] ~~consisting of~~ comprising needle-shaped particles that have a bimodal distribution and have a width l , a length L and a thickness t such that:

- the needles of a first mode have a length L of 10 to 50 μ m;
- the needles of a second mode have a length L of 1 to 10 μ m; and
- $4 < L/l < 100$ and $4 < L/t < 100$.

11. (Currently Amended) A positive electrode for a lithium battery, ~~characterized in that~~ it contains comprising an Li_{1+ α} V₃O₈ compound as claimed in claim 10 as active material.

12. (Currently Amended) The positive electrode as claimed in claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein it further ~~contains~~ comprises:

- a binder conferring mechanical integrity;
- a material conferring electronic conduction; and
- optionally, a compound conferring ionic conduction.

13. (Currently Amended) The positive electrode as claimed in claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein:

- the content of active material is between 40 and 90% by weight;
- the content of binder is from 5 to 15% by weight;
- the content of material conferring electronic conduction is 5 to 20% by weight;

and

- the content of compound conferring ionic conduction is less than 15% by weight.

14. (Currently Amended) The positive composite electrode as claimed in claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the material conferring electronic conduction is a carbon black.

15. (Currently Amended) The electrode as claimed in claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the binder is formed by a non-solvating polymer, a solvating polymer or a blend of the two.

16. (Currently Amended) The electrode as claimed in claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the binder further ~~contains~~ comprises an aprotic polar compound.

17. (Currently Amended) The electrode as claimed in claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the compound conferring ionic conduction is a lithium salt, ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of LiClO₄, LiPF₆, LiAsF₆, LiBF₄, LiR_FSO₃, LiCH₃SO₃, lithium bis(perfluoro-alkyl)sulfonimides, lithium bis(perfluorosulfonyl)methides and lithium tris(perfluorosulfonyl)methides.

18. (Currently Amended) A battery comprising a positive electrode and a negative electrode separated by an electrolyte comprising a lithium salt dissolved in a solvent, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the positive electrode is an electrode as claimed in ~~one of claims 11 to 17~~ claim 11.